

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AUTUMN SIGNALS RETURN OF FALLING LEAVES *Leaf collection begins Monday, November 9th*

INDIANAPOLIS – As the end of summer signals the return of falling leaves, the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) encourages residents to take advantage of the annual fall leaf collection program. Last year, nearly 13.5 million pounds of leaves were collected by the city.

From Monday, November 9th through Friday, December 4th, residents may set out up to 40 bags for pick up each week free of charge. No more than 10 items may be regular household trash. For example, in a hand collection area, a resident may set out two bags of trash and up to 38 bags of leaves. Or, eight bags of trash and up to 32 bags of leaves. For 96-gallon cart collection areas, all leaves must be bagged and at least three feet away from the cart in order to allow DPW trucks to continue to service the cart.

To ensure a successful collection effort, Indianapolis residents are asked to follow these guidelines:

- Place leaves in plastic or paper bags
- Place leaf bags out by 7 a.m. on your regular trash day
- Clearly identify and separate bags of leaves from regular trash (Place them on opposite sides of the driveway, place in different colored bags, or use different color tie wraps)

Residents should take special care to ensure that storm inlets and drainage pipes are kept clear of leaves and debris to avoid serious drainage and flooding problems.

DPW recycles collected leaves and turns them into compost which is available to the public free of charge. Compost can be used as a soil conditioner, potting soil or mulch. Using compost improves soil aeration, drainage and nutrient exchange – improving the health of lawns and helping gardens grow. Free compost is available at the Southside Landfill located at 2577 S. Kentucky Ave, 317.247.6808

As a reminder, it is illegal to burn leaves in Marion County. Smoke from burning leaves pollutes the air with harmful particles and is hazardous to young children and people with heart and lung disease.

For further information please call the Mayor's Action Center at 327.4622 or visit www.indy.gov/dpw.

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